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EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Personnel

Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RECEIVES BLOOD DONOR AWARD

On April 6, the Department of Agriculture was presented a certificate of appreciation by the American Red Cross for its work in the blood donor project. Secretary Wickard received the certificate from Mr. J. Folger, Chairman of the D. C. Chapter of the American Red Cross, and he, in turn, presented it to Miss Anne McFadden. Mr. Wickard also read the names of those persons who have given a gallon or more of blood.

We are very proud that our Department is the first agency to receive such an award. Many Agriculture employees have been very generous, thereby earning this award for the Department. We feel sure this is only a beginning and that even more of our employees will register with Miss McFadden, as blood donors, in the near future.

to discontinue the group. Naturally officials will not terminate the defense precautions until all possibility of air raids has completely disappeared.

Employees, therefore, are asked to remember that while we are at war, there is always the possibility of an air raid and we want to be prepared for it. Cooperate with your air raid warden, realizing that he is necessary, that he is helping to keep this Department prepared and that he is doing a good job.



AIR RAID WARDENS
STILL FUNCTION IN DEPARTMENT

In 1941 and 1942 every citizen in the United States recognized the fact that an enemy air raid on this territory might be in the offing. Unfortunately a little success on foreign fields, and the absence of any air raids, have lulled us into thinking that "it can't happen here," and as a consequence we have allowed ourselves to forget our civilian defense organizations.

However, the air raid wardens' organization which was organized in the Department in December 1941, is still in existence, still functions successfully and will continue to function until official notification has been received

EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE EFFICIENCY RATINGS SOON

This is the period of stock-taking when our supervisors record their evaluations of just how well or how poorly we have performed the duties of our jobs. These records of the facts of our work performance, our efficiency ratings, are extremely important to us because they tell us how we are doing and help determine our future careers. They affect our chances for grade promotions, and are a major factor in determining how much we are worth in our grade to the people of the United States--whether the minimum, middle, or maximum salary rate for the grade.

Because we are vitally interested in our careers, we want to earn higher efficiency ratings in the future. To do that we must know better what our jobs are and how we can improve our performance of them. Therefore, we should exercise our right to study our own ratings in detail, and should discuss them with our supervisors who are glad to help us improve our understanding and performance of our jobs.

Some of us, those who have served less than 90 days in our present grade and those serving trial periods, will not receive ratings on March 31--this is to guard against ratings based on too little knowledge of our work.

This year we will receive neither numerical ratings nor a report of conduct. We will receive notice of our ratings about June 1st on a form which defines the adjective ratings, states the official actions which may be based upon ratings, and states our right to inspect and to appeal ratings.

HOT FOOD PROVES "ILLICIOUS AND REFRESHING"

We (editorial "we") tried eating dinner in the 5th wing cafeteria the other night and were extremely pleased with the service and food there. We arrived at 5:45, and since the new speedy line has been added, we hurried past the steam tables picking up nutritious food along the way. In five minutes we had our food and had sat down to enjoy a meal which cost somewhere in the neighborhood of fifty cents. Within thirty minutes we were finished and strongly fortified for the evening ahead. It was a great feeling, and the cafeteria is now on our list for regular eating places. Try it some evening.

FROM THE "CAPITAL CALENDAR" FOR APRIL--

The D. C. Recreation Dept. offers instruction classes in social and ballroom dancing, dramatics, ball sports, bridge, language, orchestra and singing. For details, call Ad. 2050.

15-16 Potomac Youth Hostels, overnight trips to Cropley, Cloesville, Laurel, and Thurmont, Md. Call Ex. 3500.

20 Lecture, "Ghost Writing" by Alice Howard, Y.W.C.A., 8:00 p.m.

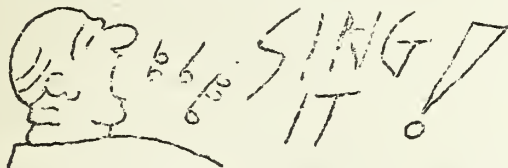
23 Lecture, "Political Emblems and Personalities," by Elizabeth Fickett, National Gallery of Art, 4:00 p.m.

27-28 Concert by Budapest String Quartette, Coolidge Aud. Library of Congress, 8:30 p.m.

30 National Gallery Sinfonetta, East Garden Court, Natl. Gallery of Art, 8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER CAMP SHOWS WILL HOLD AUDITIONS

Do you dance, sing, do tricks, give monologues, or perform fancy roller skating? If so, your talents are needed with the Volunteer Camp Shows, an entertained group interested in performing for servicemen. This organization was formed by the D. C. Recreation Association to see that people who have talent present their specialities before servicemen and women in hospitals, army camps, naval bases, service clubs, etc.



If you should like to become a part of this entertainment set-up, you are invited to attend the auditions on April 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Thomson Center, 12th and L Streets, N.W. If your act requires accompaniment, bring your own music, and a capable accompanist will be there to help you. If the staff members feel that your services are the type they require, you will be notified and asked to accompany one of the groups to a camp or service club. If the camp is out of town your transportation will be furnished.

Here is a chance for you to "do your stuff" before an appreciative group because service people are among the best audiences. No appointment is needed. Go to the Thomson Center, and perform.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SAFETY COUNCIL

Recently a Department Safety Council was established for the expansion of the safety program and further conservation of manpower through the prevention of accidents, fires and sickness. The Council meets once a month and consists of a representative from each bureau who is either a safety engineer, safety officer or a safety representative. John H. Wetzel, SCS, has been elected as Chairman, C. E. deVive, Plant and Operations, Vice-Chairman, and B. J. Culp, Office of Distribution, Secretary.

The members of the Council will be glad to receive questions or suggestions on safety, health, or fire prevention - no suggestion or question is unimportant.

CAR POOL:

Want rides

Samuel Nakasian, 2323 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Ext. 2909.

Theodore Jung, 10101 Kinross Ave., Silver Spring, Md., Ext. 5696

Jerry Dearborn, Bladensburg Rd. and M Sts., N.E., Ext. 5845.

William Feller, Greenbelt, Md., Ext. 3671

L. D. Flynn, Greenbelt, Md., Ext. 2472
Mrs. Goldsmith, 3754 Jocelyn St., N.W., Ext. 4412

Want riders

T. Paul Mudd, 2318 Minnesota Ave., S.E. Ext. 4300

Burnett H. Ballard, 819 Villa Ridge Rd. Falls Church, Va., Ext. 2133

WHAT DID YOU DO?

(Taken from the Red Cross Interpreter)

"What did you do today, my friend,
From morn until dark?

How many times did you complain

The rationing is too tight?

When are you going to start to do

All of the things you say?

A soldier would like to know, my
friend,

What did you do today?

"We met the enemy today

And took the town by storm.

Happy reading it will make

For you tomorrow morn.

You'll read with satisfaction

The brief communique.

We fought, but are you fighting?

What did you do today?

"My gunner died in my arms today;

I feel his warm blood yet.

Your neighbor's dying boy gave out

A scream I can't forget.

On my right a tank was hit,

A flash and then a fire;

The stench of burning flesh

Still rises from the pyre.

"What did you do today, my friend,

To help us with the task?

Did you work harder and longer for
less,

Or is that too much to ask?

What right have I to ask you this,

You probably will say.

Maybe now you'll understand;

You see, I died today."

(These lines were written by a
soldier as he lay severely wounded
on a battlefield.)

EMPLOYEE ELECTIONS

Shortly employees of the Dept. of Agriculture will go to the polls to elect the Employee Member of the Board of Review. To supervise the election, an Employee Election Committee has been designated to serve, subject to the approval of Department employees and the Civil Service Commission. The committee is made up of: Mrs. Alice Baldwin, Information; John Asher, REA; Harold G. Clark, AAA; Phil M. Egerton, FSA; and Edwin A. Ralph, Personnel.

The Board of Review, of course, is the group which hears efficiency rating appeals of our employees. It consists of three members--the Chairman, Department Member, and Employee Member.

GROUP HOSPITALIZATION

Group Hospitalization, Inc. will accept new subscribers this month for May 1 participation. This is a civic non-profit plan which offers hospitalization to each employee and his family.

Subscriptions are being taken now, but April 17 is the deadline for new applications. Contact the Group Hospitalization agent in your bureau for further information.

THE "FIGHTING COAST GUARD"

The "Fighting Coast Guard" Broadcasts are as popular as ever. If you haven't attended one of these programs as yet, see your bureau contact officer for tickets, and hear and see a good show. The Broadcasts happen on Thursday nights at 7:15 p.m. in the Interdepartmental Auditorium.